



# INTERNATIONAL COTTON ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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From the FAO

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## INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF NATURAL FIBRES 2009:

Newsletter No 2.

To all those interested in the International Year of Natural Fibres 2009:

2009 will be the International Year of Natural Fibres. Progress in making arrangements is being made, but much more is needed.

1. There is now a logo for the International Year of Natural Fibres 2009. See it in this message or on the interim website, [www.naturalfibres2009.org](http://www.naturalfibres2009.org). You can also see a document on the website on guidelines for the use of the logo. If you want to use the logo for commercial or fundraising purposes, you will have to request permission. But you can use it freely for information uses, although we would ask you to sign a waiver of liability, and we would like to be informed of how and where it is being used. It is available with the text of the slogan ("Discover natural fibres") in 6 languages (English, French, Spanish, Arabic, Russian and Chinese), in standard as well as high resolution files.

2. A brochure aimed at potential IYNF partners has been prepared and printed, in the 6 languages mentioned above. You can see it in .pdf format downloadable from the website. We have a limited number of copies which can be sent by post. High resolution files, suitable for printing at a professional standard, can also be provided to anyone who wants to print their own copies of the brochure.

3. A new website is being prepared, and it should be launched early in 2008. It will have the same domain name now being used for the interim site, [www.naturalfibres2009.org](http://www.naturalfibres2009.org).

4. The International Steering Committee has met a number of times, most recently in October 2007, and it plans to meet again in Rome in April 2008.

We hope that all those groups with an interest in natural fibres will initiate their own activities in 2009. The success of the IYNF will depend entirely on various organizations around the world planning and undertaking events to promote the IYNF and its objectives. Your organization might wish to make its own plans, or it might be appropriate to work in partnership with other groups in your country. The International Year is now only 12 months away. Please keep FAO ( [IYNF-2009@fao.org](mailto:IYNF-2009@fao.org) ) informed of your plans. The new website will incorporate a calendar of events, and we hope this will build up to a busy year.

Some of the plans already in place include the following:

- In Germany, there will be an event associated with Techtexsil in Frankfurt: 16 - 18 June 2009.

- In India, there will be a conference in Mumbai in either December 2008 or January 2009.
- A technical conference is planned for San Paolo, Brazil, in July 2009.
- A major component on the IYNF will be included in the 68th International Cotton Advisory Committee plenary meeting in 2009.
- In Poland, a half-day conference-debate will be organised with Eurocoton in June 2008, and the 10th International Cotton Conference in Gdynia, Poland will be dedicated to the IYNF.

FAO still has no funding for coordinating the Year, and our ability to provide materials and guidance to partner organizations is very limited. We hope to run a major international conference in Rome in 2009, but at this stage we do not have the resources required. Previous International Years co-ordinated by FAO have been supported by donations (of \$250,000 to \$600,000) from governments. Support from industry would also be welcome.

Best wishes for the Christmas season, and a happy New Year to all.